

DISTRICT, QUANG TRI PROVINCE, ON 5 JAN 93.

D. WITNESS 1981-2: LE THI ((IAN)) (LEE THII IAN);
DPOB AND FORMER OCCUPATION NOT OBTAINED BY
INTERVIEWER.

4. WITNESS 1981-3.

A. TEXT. SOMETIME IN JANUARY 1973 (DAY NOT RECALLED
BUT NEAR THE END OF THE MONTH) ON A SUNNY DAY, SOURCE
SAW AN OV-10 MAKE TWO CIRCLES. ON THE SECOND CIRCLE,
IT WAS SHOT DOWN BY A UNIT UNKNOWN TO SOURCE. THE
AIRCRAFT WAS SHOT DOWN BY A MISSILE (NFI). AT THAT
TIME SOURCE WAS A CADRE OF THE VILLAGE GUERRILLA UNIT.
SOURCE SAW THE AIRCRAFT IN THE AIR BUT DID NOT SEE IT
CRASH. HE ALSO DID NOT SEE IT AFTER IT CRASHED BUT
RECALLED SEEING THE AIRCRAFT BURN. SOURCE DID NOT SEE
ANYONE PARACHUTE OUT.

B. IN APRIL 1973, SOURCE WAS TRAVELLING BY NIGHT ON A
TRAIL THROUGH THE AREA WHEN HE PASSED BY A FLIGHT SUIT
WITH A LONG ZIPPER GOING DOWN THE FRONT. THE SUIT WAS
LAYING NEXT TO THE TRAIL AT A LOCATION APPROXIMATELY
100 METERS FROM THE LOCATION OF INTERVIEW (INTERVIEW
LOCATION IS //UTMCOORD: 48QYD 3210964570/MAP SERIES
L607; 1:100,000; SHEET 6442, SPECIAL USE S.E. ASIA;
29TH ENGR BN 10-68//. SOURCE DID NOT TAKE THE SUIT.
HE DID KEEP THE ZIPPER BUT HAS SINCE DISCARDED IT.
THE SLEEVES ON THE SUIT WERE LONG. SOURCE BEARD
NOTHING OF ANY GRAVE SITE. HE SAW NOTHING ON THE
SUIT, INCLUDING NO RANK AND NO NAME TAG. SOURCE KNEW
NOTHING OF ANYONE IN THE AREA WHO HAS ANY NOTEBOOKS OR
PERSONAL EFFECTS OF AMERICANS.

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PAGE:0015

ROUTINE

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R 220413Z JAN 93 PSN 127401P15

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TO CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI

INFO SECDEF WASHDC//OCJCS-PW-MIA/J5//
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DIA PASS TO POW-MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE
SUBJ: FIELD INVESTIGATION REPORT CONCERNING CASE 1981
REF: A. CJTF-FA PET ONE 191113Z JAN 93
B. JCRC LIAISON 250903Z MAY 90

1. REF A IS THE SUMMARY REPORT OF THE 21ST SERIES OF
JOINT FIELD ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN THE SOCIALIST
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM FROM 2 TO 18 JANUARY 1993. PARA 2C
PERTAINS TO THE INVESTIGATION OF CASE 1981 WHICH IS
REPORTED IN DETAIL HEREIN. REF B IS THE DETAILED REPORT
OF INVESTIGATION OF CASE 1981 CONDUCTED DURING THE 10TH
JOINT FIELD ACTIVITY FROM 20 APRIL TO 10 MAY 1990. THE
INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT IS BASED ON FIELD
ANALYSIS AND IS NOT INTENDED TO PROVIDE FINAL ANALYTICAL
CONCLUSIONS.

2. SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION: ON 05 AND 14 JANUARY
1993, A SUB-ELEMENT OF IEL TRAVELLED TO TRIEU PHUOC
VILLAGE, TRIEU PHONG DISTRICT, TO INTERVIEW FIVE
WITNESSES WITH INFORMATION BELATED TO CASE 1981. THE
TEAM QUESTIONED FOUR WITNESSES WHO WERE ABLE TO PROVIDE
EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY OF A JANUARY 1973 MISSILE SHOOT
DOWN OF AN OV-10 AIRCRAFT. TWO OF THESE WITNESSES
REPORTEDLY VIEWED THE SUCCESSFUL EJECTION OF BOTH PILOTS
FROM THE AIRCRAFT, BUT NEITHER COULD PROVIDE INFORMATION
CONCERNING EACH PILOT'S DEATH. TWO DIFFERENT WITNESSES
REPORTEDLY VIEWED ONE OR BOTH DEAD AMERICAN BODIES FROM
AFAR, BUT NEITHER WAS ABLE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION
CONCERNING THE SUBSEQUENT DISPOSITION OF EITHER PILOT'S
REMAINS. IEL SURVEYED RESIDENTS OF TRIEU VAN VILLAGE
CONCERNING AMERICANS CAPTURED OR KILLED IN THE AREA, BUT
ALL INQUIRIES MET WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS. THE TEAM
RECOVERED NO REMAINS DURING THEIR INVESTIGATION OF THIS
CASE. IEL RECOMMENDS JTF-FA REQUEST ARCHIVAL RECORDS
FROM THE VNOSMP CONCERNING THE WAR-TIME UNITS AND
PERSONNEL WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE 1981 INCIDENT TO

INCOMING DIA/1981

DETERMINE THE FATE OF THE TWO UNACCOUNTED-FOR AMERICANS
OF THIS CASE AND THE SUBSEQUENT DISPOSITION OF THEIR
REMAINS. COOPERATION FROM VIETNAMESE COUNTERPARTS WAS
GOOD.

3. DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION:

- A. ON 5 AND 14 JANUARY 1993, INVESTIGATION ELEMENT
ONE (IEL) INVESTIGATED CASE 1981 IN TRIEU PHUOC (TRIEUJ
PHUOC) AND TRIEU VAN (TRIEUJ VAAN) VILLAGES, TRIEU
PHONG (TRIEUJ PHONG) DISTRICT, QUANG TRI PROVINCE.
THE JOINT INVESTIGATION TEAM CONSISTED OF THE FOLLOWING
PERSONNEL:

- (1) U.S. CONTINGENT:
 - SFC [REDACTED], TEAM LEADER
 - SFC [REDACTED], ASSISTANT TEAM LEADER
 - SSG [REDACTED], ANALYST/LINGUIST
 - SSGT [REDACTED], ANALYST/LINGUIST
 - CW3 [REDACTED], LIVE SIGHTING INVESTIGATOR
 - SFC [REDACTED], SEARCH AND RECOVERY
 - SPECIALIST
 - SGT [REDACTED], SEARCH AND RECOVERY
 - SPECIALIST
 - SFC [REDACTED], EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL
 - TECHNICIAN
 - SSGT [REDACTED], TEAM MEDIC
- (2) VIETNAMESE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT CONTINGENT:
 - VU KHAC NHU (VUX KHAMC NHUJ) - TEAM LEADER, AND
 - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS REPRESENTATIVE
 - LT COL LE KY (LEE KYF), MINISTRY OF NATIONAL
 - DEFENSE
 - MAJ LE THANH TUAN (LEE TRAANF TUAANS), MINISTRY OF
 - NATIONAL DEFENSE
 - HOANG NGOC GIAM (HOANGF NGOCJ GIANRI) - MINISTRY OF
 - INTERIOR
 - BUI QUANG VIET (BUIF QUANG VIEETJ) - MINISTRY OF
 - INTERIOR

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CSN: AUIB00230 022/05:07Z CJTFFA DET ONE

191

192

ROUTINE

INCOMING

ROUTINE

R 220413Z JAN 93 PSN 127406P216

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- (3) QUANG TRI PROVINCE TASK TEAM:
- LE VAN THU (LEE VAN THU) - TEAM CHIEF AND MEMBER
- OF THE QUANG TRI PROVINCE FOREIGN RELATIONS
- OFFICE
- THANH VAN LONG (TRAANH VAWN LONG) - PROVINCE PUBLIC
- SECURITY REPRESENTATIVE
- MAJOR THANH LUONG THANH (TRAANH LWONG THANH) - QUANG
- TRI PROVINCE MILITARY COMMAND
- B. ON 5 JAN 93, IEL INTERVIEWED MR. TRUONG QUOC
SANH (TRWONGF QUOCC SANHS), A 46 YEAR OLD RESIDENT OF
TRIEU PHUOC VILLAGE, TRIEU PHONG DISTRICT. THE WITNESS
PROVIDED FIRST HAND INFORMATION CONCERNING THE SHOOT
DOWN OF A U.S. OV-10 AIRCRAFT PROBABLY RELATED TO THIS
CASE.
- (1) ACCORDING TO MR. SANH, DURING THE SUNNY
AFTERNOON ON 26 JAN 73, HE WAS SERVING AS THE TRIEU
PHUOC VILLAGE GUERRILLA COMMANDER WHEN HE OBSERVED A
U.S. OV-10 AIRCRAFT CIRCLING THE VILLAGE AT AN
APPROXIMATE ALTITUDE OF ONE KILOMETER. THE WITNESS SAID
HE IDENTIFIED THE AIRCRAFT BY ITS DUAL FUSELAGE
CONFIGURATION. THE AIRCRAFT WAS REPORTEDLY IN THE AREA
TO CONDUCT RESCUE OPERATIONS FOR THE CREW MEMBERS OF A
U.S. F-4 AIRCRAFT WHICH WAS SHOT DOWN EARLIER DURING
THAT SAME DAY. MR. SANH REPORTED THAT THE OV-10
AIRCRAFT CIRCLED THE AREA APPROXIMATELY 10 TO 15 MINUTES
BEFORE BEING SHOT DOWN BY ARMED FORCES STATIONED IN THE
LOCAL AREA. MR. SANH ALLEGED HE COULD NOT FURTHER
IDENTIFY THE UNIT THAT SHOT DOWN THE AIRCRAFT BECAUSE
THE FAST PACE OF THE INCIDENT CAUSED MUCH CONFUSION.
- (2) MR. SANH RECALLED THAT TROOPS OF THE 48TH,
302ND, AND BUONG GIANG REGIMENTS, ALL SUBORDINATE TO THE
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, OPERATED IN THE AREA AT
THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT. SANH SAID HE WITNESSED THE
AIRCRAFT AS IT WAS HIT BY A MISSILE AND WATCHED ITS

SUBSEQUENT BURST INTO FLAMES. THE AIRCRAFT REPORTEDLY
DID NOT EXPLODE BUT DESCENDED AND CRASHED IN AN AREA
THAT IS NOW PART OF TRIEU VAN VILLAGE, TRIEU PHONG
DISTRICT. THE WITNESS ADMITTED THAT HE DID NOT OBSERVE
THE AIRCRAFT IMPACT WITH THE GROUND.
- (3) ALTHOUGH MR. SANH DID NOT OBSERVE THE AIRCRAFT
CRASH, HE STATED THAT HE DID OBSERVE TWO FULLY DEPLOYED
PARACHUTES OF UNRECALLED COLORS DESCENDING ONE ABOVE THE
OTHER FOLLOWING THE INCIDENT. SANH COULD NOT ASCERTAIN
WHETHER THE PILOTS WERE DEAD OR ALIVE AS THEY DESCENDED.
HE ESTIMATED THAT THE PARACHUTES LANDED APPROXIMATELY
500 METERS FROM THE AIRCRAFT, BUT BECAUSE MR. SANH HAD
OTHER DUTIES TO CONDUCT, HE DID NOT GO DIRECTLY TO THE
SITE. HE NOTED THAT AS HE WAS PASSING BY THE AREA THREE
DAYS LATER HE OBSERVED THE BODIES OF TWO AMERICAN PILOTS
LYING SIDE BY SIDE. MR. SANH ALLEGEDLY VIEWED THE
BODIES FROM APPROXIMATELY 50 TO 60 METERS AWAY AND DID
NOT APPROACH THE BODIES DUE TO THE STENCH. MR. SANH
COULD NOT PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE PILOTS BECAUSE HE
WAS TOO FAR AWAY TO CLEARLY VIEW EACH MAN AND THE BODIES
WERE LYING FLAT ON THE GROUND.
- (4) ACCORDING TO SANH, THE TROOPS RESPONSIBLE FOR
SHOOTING DOWN THE AIRCRAFT LEFT THE AREA BEFORE HE
VIEWED THE BODIES. WHEN THE TEAM QUESTIONED THE
PLAUSIBILITY THAT ALL TROOPS HAD LEFT THE AREA THREE
DAYS AFTER THE AIRCRAFT SHOT DOWN, MR. SANH STATED THAT
IF ANY OF THE TROOPS STILL REMAINED IN THE AREA, HE WAS
UNWARE OF THEIR PRESENCE. WHEN THE TEAM QUESTIONED HOW
HE KNEW THE BODIES WERE THOSE OF AMERICAN PILOTS, SANH
SAID HE HEARD LOCAL RESIDENTS IN THE AREA TALKING ABOUT
THEM. THE TEAM ALSO ASKED HOW SANH DETERMINED THE
BODIES WERE THOSE OF THE AMERICAN PILOTS ASSOCIATED WITH
THIS INCIDENT. HE REPLIED THAT THE FOUR PILOTS SHOT
DOWN ON THE SAME DAY WERE THE ONLY AMERICANS EVER SHOT
DOWN IN TRIEU PHUOC VILLAGE.
- (5) MR. SANH SAID HE DID NOT HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF
PERSONAL EFFECTS BELONGING TO THE PILOTS BEING KEPT BY
ANYONE IN THE VILLAGE, NOR HAS HE EVER HEARD OF ANYONE
KEEPING DIARIES OR NOTEBOOKS WITH ENTRIES CONCERNING
THIS INCIDENT. SANH SAID HE DID NOT REMEMBER KEEPING
ANY PARTICULAR RECORDS OF THE EVENT. HIS NORMAL

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127406/022 01 OF 01 LDMX0663 022/05:06Z 220413Z JAN 93
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REPORTING PROCEDURE WAS ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH HAND
WRITTEN REPORTS FORWARDED TO THE TRIEU PHONG DISTRICT
MILITARY COMMAND. THESE REPORTS WERE TRANSPORTED BY
COURIERS. SANH SAID HIS RESPONSIBILITY WAS ONLY TO
GUARD AND PROTECT ANY AMERICAN CAPTURED ALIVE AND TO
TURN ANY CAPTURED AMERICANS OVER TO DISTRICT
AUTHORITIES. WHEN ASKED IF DISTRICT LEVEL AUTHORITIES
WOULD HAVE RECORDS OF THIS EVENT, MR. SANH SAID HE DID
NOT KNOW.
- C. IEL ALSO INTERVIEWED MRS. LE THI LAN (LEE THIJ
LAAN), ANOTHER RESIDENT OF TRIEU PHUOC VILLAGE, TRIEU
PHONG DISTRICT. AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT, MRS. LAN
WAS A MEMBER OF THE TRIEU PHUOC VILLAGE GUERRILLA
FORCES.
- (1) ACCORDING TO THE WITNESS, AT APPROXIMATELY
1700 HOURS ON A SUNNY DAY IN JANUARY 1973, SHE OBSERVED
A WHITE AIRCRAFT OF UNKNOWN TYPE FLYING OVERHEAD IN A
NORTH-TO-SOUTH DIRECTION. FROM APPROXIMATELY ONE
KILOMETER AWAY THE WITNESS OBSERVED THE AIRCRAFT HIT BY
UNSPECIFIED GROUND FIRE. AFTER THE AIRCRAFT WAS HIT BY
GROUND FIRE AND CRASHED, THE WITNESS OBSERVED TWO RED
PARACHUTES DESCENDING AND COMING TO REST APPROXIMATELY
100 METERS FROM THE AIRCRAFT.
- (2) AN HOUR LATER MS. LAN WENT TO THE SITE AND
OBSERVED BOTH THE AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE AND THE DEAD BODIES
OF TWO AMERICAN PILOTS FROM A DISTANCE OF 100 METERS.
NOTE: THIS RESPONSE WAS LATER CHANGED TO 30 METERS
AFTER LOCAL OFFICIALS COACHED MS. LAN TO SAY THE CLOSER
DISTANCE. ACCORDING TO THE WITNESS THE BODIES WERE
CLOTHED IN SINGLE-PIECED, MILITARY GREEN-COLORED FLIGHT
SUITS. BOTH OF THE PILOTS WERE DESCRIBED AS TALL, ONE
BEING SLIGHTLY TALLER THAN THE OTHER. SHE COULD NOT
TELL IF THE PILOTS HAD DIED AS A RESULT OF THE SHOOT
DOWN OR IF THEY WERE SUBSEQUENTLY SHOT. SHE COULD NOT

RECALL WHETHER SHE VIEWED THE PILOTS WHILE THEY STILL
WORE THEIR HELMETS. SHE THEN NOTED THAT SHE WAS TOO FAR
AWAY TO PROVIDE A FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF EITHER PILOT.
- (3) IN RESPONSE TO DIRECT QUESTIONS FROM IEL, MS.
LAN PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION: SHE DID NOT
OBSERVE ANY NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY (NVA) TROOPS IN THE
AREA AT THE TIME SHE VIEWED THE TWO AMERICANS' BODIES.
SHE DID NOT KNOW THE TYPE OF WEAPON USED TO SHOOT DOWN
THE AIRCRAFT OR THE UNIT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SHOOT DOWN.
MS. LAN COULD NOT ASCERTAIN THE NUMBER OF ENGINES ON THE
AIRCRAFT AS THE AIRCRAFT WAS STILL BURNING AT THE TIME
OF HER ARRIVAL AT THE SCENE. MRS. LAN SAID SHE HAD NO
KNOWLEDGE OF HOW OR WHERE THE TWO AMERICANS' BODIES WERE
BURIED NOTING THAT SHE HAD NO RESPONSIBILITY IN THAT
AREA. SHE DID NOT RETURN TO THE SITE FOR A YEAR
BECAUSE SHORTLY AFTER THE INCIDENT SHE MOVED TO VINE
LINE DISTRICT (VUYNH LINE) TO STAY WITH HER
FAMILY. SHE DID NOT KNOW HOW LONG THE BODIES REMAINED
AT THE SITE BEFORE THEY WERE BURIED. SHE KNEW OF NO
LOCAL RESIDENTS WHO WERE CURRENTLY MAINTAINING PORTIONS
OF PERSONAL EFFECTS PERTAINING TO THE TWO PILOTS OF THIS
INCIDENT.
- D. FOLLOWING THE INTERVIEW WITH MS. LAN, IEL ALSO
INTERVIEWED MR. DOAN THANH BINH (DOANH THANH BINH), A
41 YOA RESIDENT OF TRIEU LANG VILLAGE (XAX TRIEUJ
LANG). AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT, MR. BINH HAS A
VILLAGE CADRE MEMBER.
- (1) ACCORDING TO THE WITNESS, ON A SUNNY DAY AT
THE END OF JANUARY 1973, HE OBSERVED A U.S. OV-10
AIRCRAFT FLYING OVER THE VILLAGE. THE AIRCRAFT MADE TWO
CIRCLES AROUND THE VILLAGE BEFORE IT WAS SHOT DOWN BY A
MISSILE OF UNSPECIFIED TYPE. THE WITNESS COULD NOT
IDENTIFY THE UNIT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SHOOT DOWN AND HE
DID NOT RECALL OBSERVING THE AIRCRAFT CRASH OR SEEING
PARACHUTES IN THE SKY FOLLOWING THE INCIDENT. HE DID
NOT SEE THE PILOTS ON THE GROUND, NOR DID HE HAVE ANY
KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE SCAVENGED FROM THE CRASH
SITE.
- (2) ON AN UNRECALLED DATE IN APRIL 1973, MR. BINH
SAID HE WAS WALKING THROUGH THE AREA OF THE AIRCRAFT

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J03 (1) FPA (1) CDO (2)

127406/022 01 OF 01 LDMX0663 022/05:07Z 220413Z JAN 93
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193

194

ROUTINE

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CRASH AND HEARD UNIDENTIFIED LOCAL VILLAGERS TALKING
ABOUT AMERICAN PILOTS KILLED NEAR THE CRASH SITE. THE
WITNESS SAID HE LATER OBSERVED ONE SINGLE-PIECE, GREEN,
MILITARY SUIT WITH A LONG ZIPPER LYING NEXT TO A TRAIL
APPROXIMATELY 100 METERS FROM THE INTERVIEW LOCATION
(GRID COORDINATES YD 32189 64570). MR. BINH COULD ONLY
DESCRIBE THE SUIT AS HAVING TWO LONG SLEEVES AND TWO
LONG LEGS. HE ALLEGEDLY TOOK POSSESSION OF THE ZIPPER
WHICH HE SUBSEQUENTLY LOST. HE COULD PROVIDE NO FURTHER
INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS CASE, POSSIBLE GRAVES OF
AMERICANS IN TRIEU PHUOC VILLAGE OR ANY OTHER INCIDENT
INVOLVING THE LOSS OF U.S. AIRCRAFT OR U.S. PERSONNEL.
- E. ON 5 JANUARY 1993, A SUB-ELEMENT OF IEL ALSO
INTERVIEWED MR. LE VAN TUONG (LEE VAN TUONG), A 40 YOA
RESIDENT OF DU LY HAMLET (THUON ZU LYS), TRIEU PHUOC
VILLAGE. DURING HIS INTERVIEW MR. TUONG PROVIDED THE
FOLLOWING INFORMATION:
- (1) DURING THE WAR MR. TUONG WAS A MEMBER OF THE
TRIEU PHUOC VILLAGE GUERRILLAS AND SERVED AS A MEMBER OF
A SIX-MAN SQUAD THAT MANNED TWO 12.7 MM ANTI-AIRCRAFT
ARTILLERY WEAPONS STATIONED BETWEEN LUONG KIM (LUONG
KIM) AND XOM CO (XOM COOR) HAMLETS. MR. TUONG SAID THE
INCIDENT OCCURRED ON THE AFTERNOON OF 27 JANUARY 1973,
APPROXIMATELY TEN MINUTES FOLLOWING THE SHOOT DOWN OF AN
F-4 AIRCRAFT. MR. TUONG OBSERVED AN OV-10 AIRCRAFT HIT
BY A MISSILE FIRED BY AN UNIDENTIFIED MAIN-FORCE UNIT
(QUA REGULARS) AND WATCHED THE AIRCRAFT AS IT CRASHED IN
AN LUOI (AN LUOI) HAMLET, TRIEU PHUOC VILLAGE. MR.
TUONG DID NOT OBSERVE THE PILOTS EJECT FROM THE AIRCRAFT
AND HE DID NOT SEE PARACHUTES IN THE SKY FOLLOWING THE
SHOOT DOWN.
- (2) TUONG LATER HEARD TWO PILOTS SAFELY EJECTED
FROM THE AIRCRAFT AND DESCENDED NEAR THE CRASH SITE.
WHEN MAIN-FORCE UNITS IN THE AREA ATTEMPTED TO CAPTURE

THE PILOTS, THEY RETURNED FIRE WITH THEIR HANDGUNS. THE
MAIN-FORCE UNITS THEN ALLEGEDLY RETURNED FIRE AND KILLED
BOTH PILOTS. MR. TUONG COULD PROVIDE NO NAMES FOR THOSE
WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE ATTEMPTED CAPTURE OR THE UNIT'S
NAME OR NUMBER DESIGNATION. MR. TUONG DID NOT KNOW
WHETHER OR NOT THE TWO AMERICAN PILOTS WERE SUBSEQUENTLY
BURIED IN THE AREA. HE KNEW OF NO UNIDENTIFIED GRAVES
IN THE VILLAGE.

- F. ON 10 JANUARY 1993, A SUB-ELEMENT OF IEL MET
WITH THE TRIEU PHUOC VILLAGE CHAIRMAN AND INQUIRED
CONCERNING RECORDS RELATIVE TO THE 1981 INCIDENT. THE
CHAIRMAN STATED THAT THE VILLAGE RECENTLY COMPILED A
HISTORICAL RECORD THAT THEY SENT TO A PRINTING SHOP FOR
TYPE-SETTING AND PRINTING. WHEN IEL REQUESTED
EXAMINATION OF THESE AND ANY OTHER HISTORICAL RECORDS
CONCERNING THE VILLAGE AND THE 1981 INCIDENT, THE
VILLAGE CHAIRMAN STATED THAT ALL RECORDS WERE SENT TO
THE PRINTING PLANT AND NONE WERE AVAILABLE IN THE
VILLAGE. IEL THEN REQUESTED EXAMINATION OF THESE
HISTORICAL RECORDS THROUGH THE VIETNAMESE TEAM LEADER,
MR. VU KHAC NHU, AND THE VILLAGE CHAIRMAN SAID HE WOULD
ATTEMPT TO RE-LOCATE THE PAPERS AND MAKE THEM AVAILABLE
FOR IEL'S EXAMINATION. ON 15 JANUARY 1993, THE VILLAGE
CHAIRMAN WAS STILL NOT ABLE TO PRESENT THE HISTORICAL
DOCUMENTS CONCERNING THIS INCIDENT.

- G. ON 14 JANUARY 1993, A SUB-ELEMENT OF IEL
TRAVELLED TO TRIEU VAN VILLAGE (XAX TRIEU VAN), TRIEU
PHONG DISTRICT, AND INTERVIEWED MR. LE VAN DON (LEE VAN
DON), THE TRIEU VAN VILLAGE CHAIRMAN. IEL ASKED MR.
DON IF THE VILLAGE PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE MAINTAINED ANY
WARTIME DOCUMENTS CONCERNING AMERICAN AIRCRAFT THAT WERE
SHOT DOWN OR CRASHED IN THE VILLAGE, ANY AMERICANS
CAPTURED OR HELD PRISONER IN THE AREA, OR DISPOSITION OF
REMAINS OF DEAD AMERICANS IN THE AREA. THE CHAIRMAN
STATED THAT THEY HAVE NEVER MAINTAINED RECORDS RELATING
TO THE AFOREMENTIONED SUBJECTS.

- H. ON 14 JANUARY 1993, A SUB-ELEMENT OF IEL ALSO
SURVEYED SEVERAL LOCAL VILLAGERS CONCERNING ANY AIRCRAFT
THAT WERE SHOT DOWN OR CRASHED IN THE AREA AND ANY
AMERICANS THAT MAY HAVE BEEN CAPTURED IN THE VILLAGE
DURING THE WAR. THE TEAM SURVEYED NUMEROUS RESIDENTS IN
TRIEU VAN VILLAGE, BUT ALL ENQUIRIES MET WITH NEGATIVE

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127407/022 01 OF 02 LDMX0664 022/05:07Z 220413Z JAN 93
CSN: AUIAB0756 022/05:10Z CJTFFA DET ONE

195

ROUTINE

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SECTIONAL MSG
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SUBJ: FIELD INVESTIGATION REPORT CONCERNING CASE 1981
RESPONSES.

4. MATERIAL EVIDENCE: NONE

5. SURVEY RESULTS: NONE

6. RECOMMENDED FUTURE ACTIONS:

- A. RECOMMEND SIGNIFICANT UNILATERAL VIETNAMESE
EFFORTS TO LOCATE WITNESSES TO THIS CASE, CONCENTRATING
ON PERSONS SUBORDINATE TO NVA/GUERRILLA FORCES
PARTICIPATING IN THIS INCIDENT. SUGGEST A COMPLETE
RECORDS SEARCH BE CONDUCTED AT THE TRIEU PHONG DISTRICT
MILITARY COMMAND TO DETERMINE SPECIFIC UNIT DESIGNATIONS
OF FORCES STATIONED IN TRIEU PHUOC/TRIEU VAN AT THE TIME
OF THE INCIDENT AND OTHER POSSIBLE BACKGROUND
INFORMATION RELATED TO CASE 1981.

- B. RECOMMEND UNILATERAL VIETNAMESE EFFORTS TO
IDENTIFY THE 48TH, 302ND, AND HUONG GIANG REGIMENTS
MENTIONED BY MR. SAME AS BEING SUBORDINATE TO THE
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE. INDIVIDUALS ASSOCIATED
WITH THESE UNITS MAY HAVE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE
SHOOT DOWN AND SUBSEQUENT DEATHS OF THE TWO UNACCOUNTED-
FOR AMERICANS ASSOCIATED WITH CASE 1981.

7. PERTINENT LOCATION OR DATA CHANGES: NONE

8. AREAS OR CASE FILE INFORMATION NOT INVESTIGATED:
NONE.

9. ANALYST COMMENTS:

- A. THE TESTIMONY OF THE FIRST WITNESS, MR. SAME,
SEEMS TENTATIVE AT BEST. WHILE INFORMATION PROVIDED CAN
BE PROBABLY CORRELATED TO CASE 1981 BY TIME, LOCATION,
AIRCRAFT TYPE, AND CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE

INCIDENT, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT A PERSON SERVING AS THE
VILLAGE GUERRILLA COMMANDER WOULD NOT HAVE MORE
SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION CONCERNING THE PILOTS SHOT DOWN.
IT IS ALSO UNLIKELY THAT HE WOULD NOT KNOW SPECIFICALLY
THE UNIT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SHOOT DOWN. MOREOVER, HE
UNDOUBTEDLY WOULD HAVE HAD TO KEEP SOME SORT OF
DOCUMENTATION ON THE INCIDENT, ESPECIALLY SINCE TWO
SHOOT DOWN INCIDENTS OCCURRED IN HIS AREA OF
RESPONSIBILITY ON THE SAME DAY.

- B. THE SECOND WITNESS, MRS. TAN, A MEMBER OF THE
LOCAL GUERRILLA FORCES AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT,
INDICATED THAT SHE COULD NOT REMEMBER ANY DETAILS
CONCERNING THE CREW MEMBERS OF THE AIRCRAFT. AGAIN,
SINCE THE AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATED WITH CASE 1981, AND 1982,
WERE THE ONLY AMERICAN AIRCRAFT SHOT DOWN IN THE
VILLAGE, IT IS LIKELY THAT MORE INTEREST IN THE FOUR
AMERICAN PILOTS WOULD HAVE BEEN GENERATED. HER
TESTIMONY THAT SHE IMMEDIATELY SPENT THE NEXT TWO YEARS
WITH HER FAMILY IN ANOTHER VILLAGE APPEARED TO THE
ANALYST TO BE FABRICATED IN AN EFFORT TO DEFLECT ANY
FURTHER QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE DEAD CREW MEMBERS.

- C. THE THIRD WITNESS, MR. BINH, DID NOT PROVIDE
INFORMATION SIGNIFICANT TO THIS INVESTIGATION, WITH THE
EXCEPTION THAT THE AIRCRAFT WAS STRUCK BY A SURFACE TO
AIR MISSILE. THE REMAINDER OF HIS TESTIMONY APPEARED
COINED AND PROVIDED INFORMATION CONCERNING THE INCIDENT
WITHOUT ADEQUATE, ROUTINE DETAILS THAT WOULD NORMALLY BE
RECALLED BY AN EYEWITNESS TO AN INCIDENT.

- D. ALL THE WITNESSES INTERVIEWED IN CONJUNCTION
WITH THIS INVESTIGATION PROVIDED A CLEAR TIME OF
INCIDENT THAT CORRELATES WITH THE MISSION DATE PROVIDED
IN U.S. RECORDS. TWO OF THE WITNESSES CORRECTLY
IDENTIFIED THE AIRCRAFT AS AN OV-10. THIS CAUSES THE
ANALYST TO DRAW ONE OF TWO CONCLUSIONS. EITHER THE
WITNESSES ACTUALLY OBSERVED THE INCIDENT AND WERE
COMPLETELY NONCHALANT ABOUT THE ACTIVITY OR THE
WITNESSES WERE PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED WITH A TEXT TO FOLLOW
DURING THEIR INTERVIEW. THE FACT THAT THEY DID NOT
HESITATE OR PONDER QUESTIONS ABOUT THOSE THINGS THEY DID
NOT REMEMBER MAKES PORTIONS OF THEIR TESTIMONY
QUESTIONABLE.

BT

DLVR: CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI (5) ... ACT
J3 (1) ... INFO FOR USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI (13) 38772/17/1768
J5 (2) 00-01-04 (1) MDT (0) J38-M (1) J232 (1) J23 (1) J28 (1)
J03 (1) FPA (1) CDO (2)

RTD: 000-000/COPIES: 0018

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CSN: VOTE00078 022/05:28Z CJTFFA DET ONE

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ROUTINE

INCOMING

ROUTINE

R 220413Z JAN 93 PSN 127410P23

FM CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH

TO CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI

INFO SECDEF WASHDC//OCJCS-PW-MIA/J5//
SECDEF WASHDC//OASD-ISA/PW-MIA// USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3//
USCINCPAC LO WASHDC// DIA WASHDC//POW-MIA//
CDRUSACILHI HICKAM AFB HI// NSC WASHDC
SECSTATE WASHDC//CA/CS/CCS/EAP//
CIA WASHDC//OEA/SEA/IB/DDO/EA/ICOG//

DIA PASS TO POW-MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE
SUBJ: FIELD INVESTIGATION REPORT CONCERNING CASE 1981

10. SEARCH AND RECOVERY SPECIALIST COMMENTS: NONE

11. TEAM CHIEF COMMENTS:

- A. IT IS APPARENT THAT SEVERAL OF THE WITNESSES WERE COACHED IN PORTIONS OF THEIR TESTIMONY. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THESE WITNESSES WERE PRESENT AND OBSERVED THE AIRCRAFT SHOOT DOWN, BUT KNOW NOTHING CONCERNING THE ACTUAL FATE OF THE TWO 1981 PILOTS. THE FOURTH WITNESS, MR. LE VAN TUONG, FOR EXAMPLE, PROVIDED A DETAILED, CREDIBLE ACCOUNT OF THE 1982 INCIDENT (REPORTED SEPARATELY) WHICH CORRELATES WELL WITH U.S. RECORDS CONCERNING THE INCIDENT. DURING HIS INTERVIEW HE ALSO PROVIDED DETAILS OF THE 1981 INCIDENT WHICH ARE CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT. BECAUSE HE WAS OBVIOUSLY PRESENT DURING THE 1982 INCIDENT, HE LIKELY ALSO VIEWED THE 1981 INCIDENT. MR. TUONG, HOWEVER, MAKES NO CLAIMS CONCERNING THE BODIES OF THE TWO UNACCOUNTED-FOR 1981 PILOTS. IN FACT, MR. TUONG STATED HE DID NOT EVEN SEE THEIR PARACHUTES IN THE SKY FOLLOWING THE AIRCRAFT CRASH. THE WITNESSES WHO ALLEGEDLY VIEWED THE TWO PILOTS BODIES CAN NOT PROVIDE SUFFICIENT DETAILS CONCERNING THE DEATHS OF THESE PILOTS; THE CONDITION OF THEIR BODIES AT THE TIME OF DEATH; A DESCRIPTION OF THE PILOTS THEMSELVES AND THE DISPOSITION OF THEIR REMAINS; THEREFORE, IT IS QUESTIONABLE IF THEY EVER ACTUALLY VIEWED THE REMAINS AS THEY HAVE STATED IN THEIR TESTIMONY.

- B. ANOTHER UNUSUAL FEATURE REGARDING THE 1981 INCIDENT IS THE ABSOLUTE LACK OF INFORMATION CONCERNING THE DISPOSITION OF THE TWO PILOTS REMAINS FOLLOWING THE SHOOT DOWN. IN THE 1982 INCIDENT, MOST WITNESSES PROVIDED CREDIBLE EYEWITNESS OR HEARSAY ACCOUNTS CONCERNING ONE PILOT'S DEATH AND BURIAL IN TRIEU PHUOC

VILLAGE. ALMOST ALL VILLAGERS IN TRIEU PHUOC CAN PROVIDE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE UNACCOUNTED-FOR AMERICAN'S GRAVE, EITHER EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS OR HEARSAY. HOWEVER, IN THE 1981 INCIDENT SEVERAL OF THE WITNESSES ALLEGEDLY VIEWED THE REMAINS OF TWO PILOTS. YET, NONE CAN PROVIDE INFORMATION CONCERNING THEIR TWO GRAVES. IT IS CERTAIN IF THE TWO PILOTS WERE BURIED IN TRIEU PHUOC LIKE THE UNACCOUNTED-FOR PILOT OF CASE 1982, THE VILLAGERS WOULD AT LEAST KNOW THE LOCATION OF THE TWO AMERICANS' GRAVES.

- C. BASED ON THE INFORMATION PRESENTED BY THE WITNESSES AND THE REASONS OUTLINED IN PARAGRAPHS 11 A AND B, ABOVE, THE IEL TEAM LEADER BELIEVES THAT THE TWO PILOTS FOR CASE 1981 WERE KILLED OR CAPTURED BY MAIN NVA FORCE UNITS STATIONED IN THE AREA. AT THE VERY LEAST, THEIR BODIES WERE NOT BURIED IN TRIEU PHUOC VILLAGE LIKE THAT OF THE UNACCOUNTED-FOR SERVICE MEMBER OF CASE 1982. THEREFORE, THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO CAN PROVIDE SUFFICIENT INFORMATION CONCERNING THE FATE OF THE TWO 1981 PILOTS ARE THE MEMBERS OF THE NVA UNIT FORMERLY STATIONED IN THE AREA AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT.

- D. ALL GRID COORDINATES PROVIDED IN THIS REPORT WERE OBTAINED THROUGH THE USE OF THE GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM (GPS) USING A MINIMUM OF FIVE SATELLITES.

BT

DLVR: CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI (S) ... ACT
J3 (1) ... INFO FOR USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI (13) 30772/17/1760
J5 (2) 00-01-04 (1) MDT (0) J30-M (1) J232 (1) J23 (1) J28 (1)
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CSN: AUIA00764 022/05:12Z CJTFFA DET ONE

ENVELOPE

CDSN = LGX023 MCN = 93022/19288 TOR = 930221452
RTTUZYUW RUEKJCS097 0221452 -RUEALGX.

ZNR

HEADER

R 221452Z JAN 93

FM DIA WASHINGTON DC

INFO RHHMCMY/JICPAC HONOLULU HI

RUEALGX/SAFE

R 221358Z JAN 93

FM USDAO BANGKOK TH//PW-MIA//

TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHINGTON DC//PW-MIA/DO/DO-3/DO-MS/DO-7//

INFO RHEHAAA/WHITEHOUSE WASHDC//NSC//

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC//OASD-ISA/PW-MIA/J5/OJCS-PW-MIA//

RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC//EAP/VLC/EAP DAS QUINN//

RUHQHQB/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J2/J233/J3/J36//

RHHMCMY/JICPAC HONOLULU HI//OTC/OTU//

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RUHVAAA/CDRUSACILHI HICKAM AFB HI//TAPC-PED-II//

BT

CONTROLS

THIS IS A STONY BEACH MESSAGE

SERIAL: IIR 6 024 0381 93.

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/ CDO

BODY

COUNTRY: VIETNAM (VM).

SUBJ: IIR 6 024 0381 93/RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION
OF PRIORITY CASE 1981

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: 730100.

REQS: D-VOP-2430-03-90; D-VOP-44495.

PAGE: 0001

POW-MIA	
DATE RCD:	22 Jan 93
ACTION OFFICER:	[Signature]
DISTR	ACT/INFO
MR. SHEETZ	
MR. TROWBRIDGE	
PW-1 NOK	✓
PW-2	✓
PW-3	✓
PW-4 Source	✓
OTHER	
MORRIS, G.W.	
PETERSON, MA.	

197

198